Republic of the Philippines

SENATE

Pasay City

JOURNAL

SENATE SITTING AS AN
IMPEACHMENT COURT
ON THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF
VICE-PRESIDENT
SARA ZIMMERMAN DUTERTE

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL NO. 1
MONDAY, 18 MAY 2026

PREPARED BY THE
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL NO. 1
Monday, May 18 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 (4) and (6) of the Constitution, at 3:45 p.m., Monday, May 18, 2026, the Presiding Officer, Senate President Alan Peter "Compañero" Cayetano, declared the Impeachment Court (the Court) duly constituted, and declared the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte open.

PROCLAMATION OF THE COURT

Upon direction of the Presiding Officer, the Clerk of Court, Senate Secretary, Atty. Jose Luis G. Montales, read the proclamation of the Court commanding all persons to keep silent under pain of penalty while the Senate is sitting in trial on the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Presiding Officer, Clerk of Court Montales called the roll, to which the following senator-judges responded:

Aquino, B.	Marcoleta, R. D.
Cayetano, A. P. S.	Marcos, I. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Padilla, R.
Ejercito, J. V.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Escudero, F. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Estrada, J. E.	Tulfo, E. T.
Gatchalian, W. T.	Tulfo, R. T.
Go, C. L. T.	Villanueva, J.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, C. A.
Lacson, P. M.	Villar, M. A.
Lapid, M. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Legarda, L.	

With 23 senator-judges present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator-Judge Dela Rosa was absent.

OATH-TAKING

Pursuant to Article XI, Section 3(6) of the Constitution and Rule III of the *Senate Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Trials*, Senator-Judge Villar (C) administered to Senate President Cayetano (A) his oath as Presiding Officer.

Thereafter, the Presiding Officer administered the oath to the Senator-Judges as Members of the Impeachment Court.

PRESENTATION OF THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

Senator Villanueva informed the Body that on May 14, 2026, the House of Representatives (HOR), through Secretary General Cheloy Garafil, delivered to the Senate the "Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sarah Zimmerman Duterte, pursuant to Article XI, Section 3, paragraph 3 of the Constitution and Rule IV, Section 11 of the Rules of Procedure in Impeachment Proceedings of the House of Representatives."

He stated that earlier in the Senate plenary session, the Articles of Impeachment was referred to the Committee on Rules, and consequently, to the Senate sitting as an Impeachment Court.

Thereafter, he presented the Articles of Impeachment against Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte, along with its annexes, to the Impeachment Court for proper disposition and action.

ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE ON IMPEACHMENT TRIALS

There being no objection, the Court, by unanimous consent, adopted the *Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Trials* under Senate Resolution No. 39. The Presiding Officer noted that pursuant to Rule VI of the said impeachment rules, the *Rules of the Senate* and the *Revised Rules of Court* shall apply suppletorily whenever applicable.

ISSUANCE OF WRIT OF SUMMONS

Following the organization of the Impeachment Court and presentation of the Articles of Impeachment, the Presiding Officer ordered the issuance of the writ of summons directing Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte to file her Answer within a non-extendable period of ten (10) days from receipt thereof, pursuant to Article VII of the *Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Trials*, and to appear before the Senate session hall upon notice. He likewise ordered the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms to serve the written summons on Vice President Duterte together with a copy of the Articles of Impeachment.

The Presiding Officer further stated that the prosecution would be given a non-extendible period of five (5) days from receipt of the Answer to file its Reply, and that the parties may personally or electronically file their pleadings, annexes, motions, and similar papers for the Court's consideration, noting that specific instructions on the format and manner of electronic filing would be circulated accordingly.

Upon inquiry by Senator-Judge Sotto on how the 10-day period to file an Answer and the five-day period for the prosecution's Reply would be counted, the Presiding Officer clarified that both periods refer to calendar days.

SETTING OF PRE-TRIAL AND IMPEACHMENT CALENDAR

The Presiding Officer authorized the Clerk of Court to calendar the case for pre-trial and issue the corresponding notices to the parties after the last pleading is filed. He also stated that upon conclusion of the pre-trial, the trial proper shall commence on a date and time to be fixed by the Court, with due notice to the parties concerned.

Further, the Presiding Officer said that he would consult with the Senator-Judges in setting an impeachment calendar that would not only be fair to both the prosecution and the defense but would also allow the Senate to continue performing its legislative functions.

SUSPENSION OF TRIAL

At this juncture, the session of the Court was suspended.

It was 3:54 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Atty. MARIVIC LAUREL GARCIA
Deputy Clerk of Court

Approved on July 6, 2026